

STATE LEGISLATORS ARE AROUSED BY THE EXPOSURE OF THE GAS TRUST'S EXTORTIONS.

Senator Fitzgerald Pushing His Bill to Prevent Further Robbery by Reducing the Price to 75 Cents, While Senator Martin Talks of an Inquiry Into Methods of the Combine.

Commissioner Robert Grier Monroe, Whose Department Is Supposed to Have Jurisdiction Over the Gas Supply of the City, Is Unable to Prevent the Stand-and-Deliver Tactics of the Trust.

(Special to The Evening World from a Staff Correspondent.)
ALBANY, Feb. 26.—Members of the Senate and Assembly are keenly interested in The Evening World's agitation for fair charges for improved gas service in the metropolis.

The feeling here is that a thorough, searching inquiry should be made by the Legislature. Copies of The Evening World containing complaints of many gas consumers in the metropolis were on the desks of every Senator and Assemblyman when the session opened to-day, and they were eagerly read.

Senator Bernard F. Martin, of the Thirteenth New York District, voiced the opinion of the New York City legislators. He said:

"The situation in New York as regards the gas service is fast becoming intolerable. When I was at home the other night I found it impossible to read my paper because the quality of the gas was so poor. It is time something was done about this matter, which is of such vital concern to hundreds of thousands of people.

"I don't know what would be the best method of remedying the present conditions, but I shall talk it over with my colleagues and see if something cannot be done. An investigation by the Legislature might bring the best results. A legislative committee should be sent to New York City clothed with full power, and it could get at the bottom of these complaints and compel the gas companies to give better service."

Senator Fitzgerald, of New York, believes the best way to bring the companies to terms would be to pass a law reducing the price of gas. He already has introduced a bill making the rate in New York City 75 cents per thousand feet.

This measure is in the hands of the State Committee on Miscellaneous Corporations, and Senator Fitzgerald will make a hard fight to get it to a vote.

LAWS JUGGLED BY TRUST TO PROTECT GAS ROBBERY

Commissioner Monroe's Hands Are Tied and the Extortion Goes On Without Hindrance.

While "holding up" the public through overcharges and "fast" meters, the gas companies have been able to so juggle the laws as to make it possible to continue their extortion without the fear of interference by public officials.

The statutes enacted to protect the people really protect the corporations and the hands of the officials. This provision was worked into the new city charter:

Section 22. The illuminating gas of every company shall be inspected at least twice a year, and may be inspected as frequently as the commissioner may think best, but not oftener than once a week. The gas shall be tested for illuminating power by means of a diaphanometer, or other approved apparatus, and during such test shall be burned from a burner best adapted to it, which is at the same time suitable for domestic use, and at as near the rate of five feet per hour as is practicable. When the gas of any company shall be found on three consecutive inspections to be of an illuminating power less than twenty sperms candles of six to a pound, and burning at the rate of one hundred and twenty grains of spermaceti per hour, tested at such place as the said commissioner shall specify by a burner consuming five cubic feet of gas per hour, and shall not comply with the reasonable and proper standard of purity as fixed by said commissioner, a fine of one hundred dollars shall be paid by such company to the city."

MONROE'S HANDS TIED.

Robert Greer Monroe is the Commissioner of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity. He doesn't take much interest in the gas tests, because he hasn't money to spend on them, and, besides, the charter provision permits him to make tests not oftener than once a week. That was a joke put in the charter by the Gas Trust.

Dr. E. G. Love is the gas chemist of the department. He has two photographic stations for testing gas—one at No. 122 Bowery and the other in Seventy-ninth street. He cannot do much. He tests the quality, and if it runs under twenty-candle power the company is notified; but before the Trust can be fined three successive violations of the law must be shown.

Commissioner Monroe said to-day: "I don't see that I can do anything as long as the gas companies keep within the provisions of the law. We haven't yet been able to find sufficient violations to fine them. As soon as we find the gas is of poor quality we notify the company, and usually the trouble is remedied. We haven't yet had cause to fine the gas corporations, because the law treats them so liberally.

ONLY SEVEN INSPECTORS.

"When Dr. Love makes his tests he reports to the Bureau of Lamps and Gas. For Manhattan and the Bronx we have but seven inspectors to see that the streets are properly lighted.

"I asked the Board of Estimate for money to establish gas laboratories, but it was not allowed to me."

District-Attorney Jerome, when asked if he would bring the gas swindle before the Grand Jury, said:

"It seems to be up to Monroe."

GOT A LITTLE RELIEF.

Dr. E. O. Kellogg, of No. 144 West Fifty-eighth street, one of the victims whose wrongs The Evening World printed yesterday, has obtained a little justice as a result of the expose. Supt. Jastrow Alexander, upon reading an account of the way the Gas Trust was holding up the doctor, went post-haste to the latter's office and examined the meter.

"It's 10 per cent. too fast," Alexander reported.

"What do you mean by that?" asked the doctor.

"Well, you're paying for 10 per cent. more gas than you actually use."

Dr. Kellogg is sure that 10 per cent. is not anywhere near the excess that has been forced out of him. In 1902 his average monthly bill for the gas used in his office was between \$7.50 and \$9.00. This year it is up to \$20.20. The Evening World has advised the doctor to demand a return of every cent of excess charged since the "fast" meter was installed. There are others in his neighborhood who have been "held up" in the same way, and the fact that this paper has started in their behalf has given them heart to stand firm against further extortion.

SEND YOUR KICK ABOUT HIGH GAS, ELECTRIC LIGHT OR OIL BILLS TO JOHN D. HE OWNS ALL.



INDIGNANT PUBLIC CRIES OUT AGAINST GAS HOLD-UP.

The flood of complaints against the gas trust is growing every day. These are some of the latest complaints against the combine:

The Aftable Gas Clerk.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I have five rooms, all light, in the front of the house. My gas bill for the first month I came here, two years ago, was a little over \$1. This month's bill is \$1.50. I took my previous receipt to the office of the company to-day and I was bluntly told that no bills would be dealt with or examined except the bill for this month. "That goes," said the urbane clerk at the counter, and there was a look in his eye that told how glad he was to see the helpless public subject to his insults and jeers as well as the extortion of his masters.

O. L. NELSON.
No. 267 West Fifteenth street.

How He Gets a Chance.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I have used gas for cooking purposes for a number of years, and during that time before the so-called gas trust was formed my gas bills were very regular, but ever since then my bills gradually increased. One day I was advised to put a top plate upon my gas range, and from that time my bill decreased to a uniform rate.

J. J. KONGES.
Company Caught Stealing.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Reading that the gas companies deny any overcharges on gas bills, I wish to state how my bills increased nearly double from last year. In my case I use the same amount of gas summer and winter. I have only four lights. This is how my bills run:

	1901	1902
August	\$12.40	\$12.40
September	12.40	12.40
October	12.40	12.40
November	12.40	12.40
December	12.40	12.40
January	12.40	12.40
February	12.40	12.40

I notified the State Meter Inspector and he had my meter examined and said that he found it only 2-1/2 per cent. fast. I figured that he would find it about 10 per cent. fast. I went to the gas company's office and showed them the inspector's memorandum. They looked it up and told me they could only give me the 2-1/2 per cent. rebate for one year. Now, the meter has been in my store nearly four years, so I lose 3-1/2 per cent. on my gas bills for three years. I would like to know if I can make them pay me back that money, to which they are not entitled.

ABE WOLF.
His Meter Focus-Focused.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Bully for you, that you have opened war on the Consolidated Gas Com-

pany. My experience is that it is the worst fraud on earth, with not a particle of redress except to pay for two-thirds air and one-third gas—the entire combination at \$1 per 1,000 feet.

It certainly is a balm to be able to let loose one's long-pent-up feelings. My bills may not be large, but my experience has the same bearing on the subject as those of greater denomination. Here is my trouble: My gas bill for last December was \$6.30. Then the gas magician played some hocus on my meter and lo! and behold! my January bill jumped to \$8.10.

For about a whole week of this last month I hardly had any light at all, and all my cooking was done principally with coal. For two evenings I had no gas whatever and had to use candles.

WON'T you please tell me of some business which I can enter, having the dear public as my customers, and wherein they will have no redress, like myself, in case they want any?
ONE OF THE DEAR PUBLIC.
Increase Only in the Bills.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Concerning the robbery of consumers by the Gas Trust, a year ago my bills averaged about \$4 monthly; this year they have run up to \$5.50 or \$7 a month without any increase whatever in the consumption of gas.

CHARLES H. GEORGE.
61 Bank street, city.
The Meter Can't Err!
To the Editor of The Evening World:
My gas bill this month is \$10, last month it was \$5.50. I wrote to the gas company and complained of the amount and also of the poor gas. They sent a man to examine the meter and he said it was all right, though I used less gas this month than last. Hoping that you will stop this horrible robbery I am,
YORKVILLE VICTIM.

Bills Trebled for Him.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I would like to make a complaint against the Consolidated Gas Company. My bills for January and February of last year were each \$1.50, and this year January's bill is \$4.50 and February's \$4.50—three times as much.
R. LITTLE, No. 134 Third avenue.

Nearly Doubled His Bill.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I also wish to make a complaint against the Consolidated Gas Company. Our bills are increasing every month. Last year January's bill was \$1.00, this year \$3.
A. BARTON, No. 134 Third avenue.

How Is This for a Jump?
To the Editor of The Evening World:
For the past two years my bills averaged from \$2.50 to \$3 a month, which

was the highest. On Jan. 14 my month's gas bill was \$7.20. I complained to the gas company and they said the next bill would be lower. Instead of being lower, as they promised, I got a bill for \$10.50. We are using the same amount of gas light as when we paid \$2.50. Respectfully yours,
B. BONDERSKY, No. 328 West Fifty-second street.

Economized! Bill Jumped.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I have been consuming gas in my restaurant at No. 221 Broome street, Manhattan Borough, for the past four years, during which time I have suffered extensively owing to the methods used by the gas company.

Lately my gas bills have jumped from \$5.50 to about \$10 a week, although I have tried in every way possible to economize. I use less gas now than I did before, but, strange to say, my bills are larger.

I have often asked the gas company to inspect the meter and when the inspector called and examined the meter he always said he found nothing wrong with it. I asked them repeatedly to install a new meter, but they refused to do so.

I sincerely hope this letter will assist you in winning your fight for the much-oppressed citizens of this city.
D. SILVERSTEIN.

Of Course, "Pay Up or —"
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I am glad to see you taking up the cause of the public. My bills have been growing monthly.

When coal was so high I burned gas to cook and heat with and my bill came to less than \$2. Now, when I'm using only coal for these purposes, my bills exceed \$5.

I refused to pay the collector last month, and went to the One Hundred and Fourteenth street office, but was not allowed by the not-over-civil clerks to see any higher official. I was told that unless I paid my bill my gas would be cut off. I paid.

AN ANGRY VICTIM.

No Angels in the Gas Trust.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I am one of the sufferers by Gas Trust methods. Whereas, my gas bills never amounted to more than \$1, this month it comes to \$2.80, and we were more careful, only burning one light. When I went to the office to complain I was told they did not employ clerks, and could not help it.

R. HALL, No. 214 East Twenty-fifth street.

Short, Crisp but Convincing.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Feb. 11, 1901.....\$6.50
Feb. 11, 1902.....\$6.50
Feb. 11, 1903.....\$6.50
Same house, same burners, no alterations. Result of complaint: Promise of inspection of meter. Yours,

A SUFFERER.
No Complaints, Eh! How's This.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
The Secretary of the Consolidated Gas Company is mistaken in saying the com-

SEND YOUR COMPLAINTS OF GAS EXTORTION TO THE EVENING WORLD.

The Gas Trust says there are no complaints of overcharge from its victims. To refute this statement The Evening World will print all complaints sent to this office. Each communication must have name and address of the writer, not for publication unless desired. Write only on one side of the paper.

pany is not receiving any complaints of overcharging. I have sent at least four of them myself in the last six months.

—GAS CONSUMER.

Text That Showed Extortion.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I write to say that your article in this evening's World (Feb. 23) regarding the gas overcharge is correct.

As an illustration of it, and to convince one of my family that the gas companies charge what they please, I used a lamp for two weeks, not using any gas whatever, and the bill for gas for that month was just \$1 more than the previous one. If that does not prove extortion what does?

If you take steps to prevent these robberies it will do a vast deal of good to the public.

A READER OF YOUR PAPER.

He Sends the Proof.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
"Me too." Inclose find two bills for gas. One is dated from Jan. 8 to Feb. 7, 1902, the other from Jan. 8 to Feb. 6, 1903. This year's bill is just half again as much as last year's, with the exception of 10 cents. Seemingly must be believing, don't you think?

No Protection to the Public.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I claim I have been persistently overcharged for gas and when I made a complaint the company turned off my gas without notice. According to their own showing and final acknowledgment they owed me something like \$1.50. I had paid a \$10 deposit and the amount of my gas bills in all came to \$8.40.

The cutting off of my gas caused me serious damage beside the vexatious and insulting manner of the superintendent. He said gas was like rent and should be paid for beforehand and gas companies should be protected.

I told him I'd like to see him in a country where the people had to be protected.

AN UPTOWN VICTIM.

His Meter Like a Hungry Dog.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I am a poor laboring man with a household of children. I have a quarter-meter, and it puts me in mind of a hungry dog, always whining for more. I burn one jet in my kitchen for about five hours at night and between 5 and 6 o'clock in the morning, and a quarter pays for only four nights.

Increased Nearly Threefold.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I wish to say that I am paying more for gas than ever before and I am using less. My bills never were over \$2.50, but for the last four or five months I have been getting bills of \$5 and over.

H. SHEVITZ, No. 340 Sixth avenue.

How One Householder Was Robbed.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Am glad to find you are "going for" those "gentlemen" (?) who supply air and a medium of gas to the people of New York in exchange for genuine dollar bills. It is a crying shame that they should be allowed to "do" us

with impunity. The secretary says there have been no complaints. He tells an absolute untruth. There were six people at the office complaining when I made mine, though they never do the slightest good.

For December my bill was \$12.30. In January, 1903, \$9.40, and this year \$13.10 (and has never been without coal for my furnace all the winter).

I do hope that you will not rest till those cormorants and vultures are laid low, and are forced to give an honest and square deal to the consumers of their "gas."

BUNCOED.

Used No Gas—Bill for \$3.50.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I will give you my experience with the Gas Trust. I applied for gas; they sent me a leaky meter that flooded the house with gas until we discovered its source and cut it off and sent word to the company. They fixed it, also my bill, which was \$1 for nine nights—one jet burning one and a half to two hours, no more, all outside rooms.

I made a complaint to the company, as my neighbors had no larger bill for a month for cooking and illuminating, and I had no gas stove, so, of course, didn't cook with it. But I got my second bill before any one came to investigate. This bill was 50 per cent. more than that for people using two or three times the amount I was using.

A man finally came to examine, not the meter but me. He said the amount was too small to bother about. If it was several dollars, why, there might be something done.

My bills merely increased every month until one month, getting my bill for \$2.40 (for one jet). I sent them word to cut off the gas and immediately stopped using it. Imagine my surprise when the collector came at the end of this month with a bill for \$3.50; that was \$1.40 for it, but they had my deposit. "They sent again by mail, asking me to remit \$3.50, but I remitted a piece of my mind instead."

There is only one way to stop this legalized public thievery—that is through municipal ownership of gas.

Lend your aid to turn the thieves out and add another laurel to your record.

Mrs. J. COSTELLO.

Both Fleece and Intimidated.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Will you kindly give some attention to my protest against the wholesale robbery of the gas company? I am a private consumer and my bills have mounted rapidly in the past three months. Will you kindly judge for yourself?

December, \$6.50.
January, \$10.30.
February, \$11.10.

This, despite the fact that during December we burnt more gas than during January and February. The company threatens to discontinue my supply unless my two last bills, amounting to \$21.10 are paid by the end of the week, and the sum is entirely beyond my means.

Can nothing be done to end this outrageous demand for gas? Will you kindly pay for an inspection of my meter by the State Inspector, M. S.

INTERESTING, IF TRUE.

You Can Try It for Yourself and Prove It.

One grain of the active principle of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will digest 3.6 grains of meat, eggs or other wholesome food, and this claim has been proven by actual experiment, which any one can perform for himself in the following manner: Cut a hard-boiled egg into very small pieces as it would be if masticated, place the egg and two or three of the tablets in a bottle or jar containing warm water heated to 90 degrees (the temperature of the body), and keep it at this temperature for three or one-half hours, at the end of which time the egg will be as completely digested as if it would have been in the healthy stomach of a hungry boy.

The point of this experiment is that when Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will do to the egg in the bottle it will do to the egg of meat in the stomach, and nothing else will rest and invigorate the stomach so safely, and effectively. Even a little child can take Stuart's Tablets with safety and benefit. Its digestion is weak, and the thousands of cures accomplished by their regular daily use are easily explained when it is understood that they are composed of vegetable essences, aseptic pepsin, diastase and Golden Seal, which mingle with the food and digest it thoroughly, giving the overworked stomach a chance to recuperate.

Dieting never cures dyspepsia, neither do pills and cathartic medicines, which simply irritate and inflame the intestines.

When enough food is eaten and promptly digested there will be no constipation, nor in fact will there be disease of any kind, because good digestion means good health is every organ.

The merit and success of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are world-wide, and they are sold at the moderate price of 50 cts. for full-sized packages in every drug store in the United States and Canada, as well as in Europe.

BLOOD HUMOURS

Skin Humours, Scalp Humours,

Hair Humours,

Whether Simple Scrofulous or Hereditary

Speedily Cured by Cuticura

Soap, Ointment and Pills,

When All Other Remedies and Best Physicians Fail.

COMPLETE TREATMENT, \$1.00.

In the treatment of torturing, disgusting, itching, scaly, crusty, pimply, blotchy and scrofulous humours of the skin, scalp and blood, with loss of hair, Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Pills have been wonderfully successful. Even the most obstinate of constitutional humours, such as bad blood, scrofula, inherited and contagious humours, with loss of hair, glandular swellings, necrotic patches in the throat and mouth, sore eyes, copper-colored blotches, as well as boils, carbuncles, scurvy, sties, ulcers and sores arising from impure or impoverished condition of the blood, yield to the Cuticura Treatment, when all other remedies and methods fail.

And greater still, if possible, is the wonderful record of cures of torturing, disgusting humours among infants and children. The suffering which Cuticura Soap and Ointment have alleviated among the young, and the comfort they have afforded worn-out and worried parents, have led to their adoption in countless homes as priceless cures for the skin and blood. Infants with humours, milk crust, scaly head, eczema, rash and every form of itching, scaly, pimply skin and scalp humours, with loss of hair, of infancy and childhood, are speedily, permanently and economically cured when all other remedies suitable for children, and even the best physicians, fail.

PILE OIL. Cures piles and constipation. Sold under guarantee. All Druggists or Quackenbush, 400 W. 57th St., N. Y.

DIED.
MCCOY.—On Thursday, Feb. 26, THOMAS, beloved husband of Jessie McCoy.
Funeral Saturday morning at 9 o'clock from his late residence, 153 Lincoln ave., Bronx; thence to St. Jerome's Church, 138th st. and Alexander ave.

Boston Globe please copy.
MURPHY.—On Thursday, Feb. 26, 1903, THOMAS, beloved son of Mary Murphy.
Funeral from the residence of his mother, 510 East 16th st., Saturday, Feb. 27, 9 A. M.; thence to the Immaculate Conception Church, East 14th st., where a solemn requiem mass will be offered for the repose of his soul.
Relatives and friends are invited.

Laundry Wants.
BOY WANTED to run errands. Laundry, 493 Atlantic ave., Brooklyn.
BOY, about 15, for delivery wagon; references required. Wallace's Laundry, 999 Madison ave.
BOY—Respectable delivery boy, about 16; bring references. Wallace's Laundry, 1210 23 ave., near 64th st.

BOY, strong, 16, to deliver laundry parcels; references required. Wallace's Laundry, 2312 8th ave., near 125th st.
BOY—Good strong boy, one who has worked in laundry preferred. 20 W. 16th st.
BOYS—Reliable boys in laundry, 14 weekly at start; references required. 2715 Broadway, near 11th st.

FIRST-CLASS FAMILY IRONER. Try Quaker Laundry, 243 Columbus ave.
BRAND BOY WANTED. Laundry, 102 W. 47th st.

FREDER first class, on a Morscher machine, Lincoln Steam Laundry, Corner 9th st. and 1st ave.

IRONERS! women for cotton dresses and lace; experienced hands preferred; good wages. Call Old States Loan Office, 234 Canal st.

IRONER—Woman to iron plain clothes. Justice Laundry, 113 W. 16th st.

IRONER—Good family ironer, Tuesday and Fridays, in laundry, 236 Court st., Brooklyn. MEN to learn shirt ironing. 178 E. 102d st.

MARKER and sorter wanted. Laundry, 259 34 ave.

WANTED—Starcher and operator on Hagas brand steam laundry. Call Quackenbush Laundry, Englewood, N. Y.

WANTED—All sorts of ironing. Starling's Laundry, 320 5th ave., bet. 5th and 6th sts.

The thoughtless man with land to sell. Finds no one who will buy. He does not think of printer's ink and all World Wants ink.



H-O
The latest crack out of the hat-box is the brownish Derby. London's crack hatters have taken it up—we've taken one of the smartest London shapes and reproduced it in the two best London tints. Ready now, with the new blocks in black Derbies and Stetson soft hats.

ROGERS, PEET & COMPANY.
258 Broadway, opposite City Hall, and 7 and 9 Warren St.
We sell orders and 100 to 150 doz. Ave. by mail, and 50 West 3rd St.